

the world. This legislation and the resulting nuclear supply agreements with India should improve an important strategic relationship and reduce the likelihood nuclear weapons will fall into the hands of those who wish to do us harm, including rogue states and terrorists.

A POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO PASTOR BISHOP CLARENCE HARMON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the late Pastor Bishop Clarence Harmon, a man who was a giant among men in the Brooklyn, New York community. Although he has passed on, it behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments, as the community prepares to honor the memory of this great man of God at a memorial service on July 30, 2006.

Clarence Harmon was born July 26, 1926 in Columbia, South Carolina. After completing high school, he came to New York City. After several years in New York, he met and married Catherine P. Penn. To that union, three children, one daughter and two sons were born. It was after their marriage that he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and joined Betterview Baptist Church. Upon departure from Betterview, he became affiliated with the Institutional Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Reverend Carl E. Williams. There, God began to mold and shape him for greater service. On Easter Sunday, 1951, he preached his first sermon. He graduated from Shelton College in 1956. In April 1956, he started a mission at 645 Halsey Street, Brooklyn. Shortly thereafter, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, Elder Harmon was led to 623 Madison Street. The building was totally void. However, the spirit of God confirmed to him whispering the words "This Is It" and the Lord blessed his hands to build a structure such as the one that is known as Unity Temple.

During the latter part of 1956, Unity Temple became affiliated with the Church of God in Christ, Inc. Eastern New York Jurisdiction. For the next 30 years, Pastor Harmon held various leadership positions within the COGIC, such as: President and Administrative Assistant of the Pioneers, Chairman of the Board of Elders; President of the State Benevolent Committee; and Superintendent of District No. 3 under the leadership of the late Bishop F. D. Washington. As an Assistant Bishop to over 100 churches throughout the dioceses of the Churches of God in Christ, Bishop Harmon instituted a benevolence committee to take care of the pioneers and widows of the Eastern N.Y. Jurisdiction.

In 1988, he was appointed to the position of First Assistant of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Eastern New York; the late Bishop Ithiel Clemmons, Jurisdictional Prelate. In October 1995, he was elevated to the office of Bishop in the Churches of God in Christ. He served as Presiding Bishop of the O. M. Kelly/F. D. Washington Brotherhood.

Bishop Harmon was a pioneer in the Brooklyn community, hosting one of the largest food pantries in Bedford-Stuyvesant feeding over

4,000 people a month. Bishop Harmon was a generous person donating his time and talent to those in need. He had an open door policy at the church, often allowing weddings and funerals to be held without cost. Bishop Harmon's favorite saying was "Everybody is somebody" and he lived and proved that every day. Through his ministry, 15 churches to date have been birthed. Though small in stature, Bishop Harmon stood tall among men. He acquired the name "Muscles" from his friends in the ministry because of his strength and tenacity in defending the underprivileged. Some of those friends included the late Bishop F.D. Washington, Bishop O.M. Kelly and Bishop I. Clemmons, to name a few.

He was and still is an inspiration to those who knew him. Bishop Harmon's church community continues his legacy through the implementation of the Clarence Harmon Scholarship Fund that will award two scholarships in his name to high school seniors seeking a college degree. This tribute will further serve as a reminder to our youth that no height is too great for them to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Pastor Bishop Clarence Harmon, a man who offered his talents and services for the betterment of our local and global communities.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Harmon's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

TRIBUTE TO SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contributions and deep sacrifices that our men and women in the military make. I would like to share the experience of one of my constituents, Major Jeff Farmer, who recently returned from Iraq and sent me this message:

I'll leave you with a little story. After going on R&R three months earlier (to date I'd been away from my home for more than twelve months), I flew into Atlanta National Airport from Kuwait for a layover waiting for the next flight to Charlottesville, VA. I had on my same uniform that I had been wearing for 36 straight hours. I was trying to get home to my family. I was hungry so I went into an Appleby's in the airport terminal. I did not feel very patriotic so I found a corner booth and dropped my pack next to the floor by my table. I was tired so I put my head down as if to meditate and trying not to attract any attention. I was not quite sure if I wanted to eat or sleep however both were weighing heavily on my mind. The waiter came to my table and reminded me that I could not drink alcohol in the airport in uniform because of General Order #1. I told the waiter that was OK. I was not drinking anyway. My eyes were a little hazy and I was appreciating the look of free people walking around and enjoying each other's conversation. It was refreshing and distracted my attention while I was trying to look at the menu and order. It was nice to hear a baby cry, people laugh, and just enjoy what they were doing without consequences or reper-

cussions. The environment was very warm which made me feel a little envious of my experience and if they really knew how good life really is. My meal finally came and I ate slowly trying to taste, smell, and enjoy every bite. French fries never tasted so good.

After an enjoyable meal I slowly got up and walked over to the counter to ask for my waiter so I could pay and leave. The cashier said, "Don't worry. The meal is covered." I thanked him and he said don't thank me. Four different people offered to pay your meal and when I told the other three the meal was paid in full they said, "Keep the money for the next soldier coming in." As I turned from the counter with my pack on my back people began to stand, thank me, pat my back, and applaud. Tears filled my eyes. I was humbled. Just the thought and gesture made me feel proud of what I was doing and my service to my country. At that moment I knew I was home.

We owe Major Jeff Farmer and his fellow servicemen and women a debt of gratitude for helping preserve freedom and democracy.

HONORING GIRLS INC.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Girls Inc., an outstanding organization that serves young women and girls throughout my district and across our country. Girls Inc. is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire all girls to be "strong, smart, and bold." With local roots dating to 1864 and national status since 1945, Girls Inc. has responded to the changing needs of girls and their communities through research-based programs and public education that empower girls to reach their full potential and to understand, value, and assert their rights.

Girls Inc. reaches nearly 800,000 girls through its direct service, website, products, and publications. In 1,700 program sites in the United States and Canada, Girls Inc. directly serves girls ages 6–18 with research-based programs focusing on science, math, and technology; physical and mental health and sexuality; violence prevention and safety; substance abuse prevention; financial literacy; sports and athletic skills; leadership and advocacy; and media literacy. Of the girls served by Girls Inc., 76 percent are girls from communities of color and 70 percent come from families earning \$25,000 or less. More than half are from single-parent households, most of which are headed by women.

The Girls Inc. movement started in New England during the Industrial Revolution as a response to the needs of a new working class: young women who had migrated from rural communities in search of newly available job opportunities in textile mills and factories. The movement grew during the Great Depression, and in 1945, 19 charter clubs formed the Girls Club of America, a name that would, in 1990, change to Girls Inc.

Over the years Girls Inc. programming has changed to accommodate the evolving needs of young women in our society. While programming in the 1950s focused on preparing young women for future roles as wives and homemakers, amidst the social turbulence that marked American life in the 1960s, Girls Inc.